

REMARKS

Applicant is concurrently filing a Request for Continued Examination with the present amendment.

Claims 1-4, 10-22, and 25 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1, 11, 13, 16, and 25. Claims 5-9, 23-24, and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 11, 24 and 25 are indicated as allowable. Claim 24 has been incorporated into claim 1, and claims 11 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 1-4, 10-12, and 25 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 16, 17, 19-23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Varela (US 6701763). This rejection is moot with regard to claims 1-3, 10, 23, and 26. Claim 22 is ultimately dependent from claim 13, which does not stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Varela. Thus, Varela cannot anticipate claim 22.

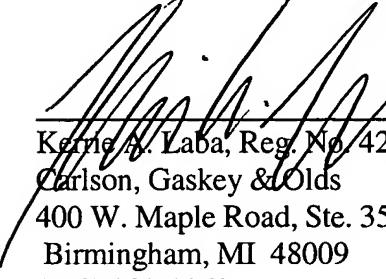
The independent method claim 16 has been amended to include the features from the allowed apparatus claims. Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that one of the first and second location members is separately attached to the non-rotating axle tube. Varela does not disclose using separate axial and/or radial location members that are mounted to the axle tube. Thus, claims 16-21 should now also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. (a) as being unpatentable over Varela alone. Claims 4 and 13-15 stand rejected under U.S.C. (a) as being unpatentable over Varela in view of Garrett. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. (a) as being unpatentable over Varela in view of Creek. These rejections are moot with regard to claims 4, 18, and 21 in light of the amendments set forth above. Claim 13 has been amended to include similar language to that of claim 16. Thus, claims 13-15 and 22 should be in condition for allowance.

Applicant asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an indication of such. Fees for two (2) additional independent claims were paid on March 23, 2006 when this Amendment was originally filed (check no. 18065). Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account

No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


Karrin A. Laba, Reg. No. 42,777
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: May 8, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8 day of May, 2006.


Laura Combs